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10 March 1966

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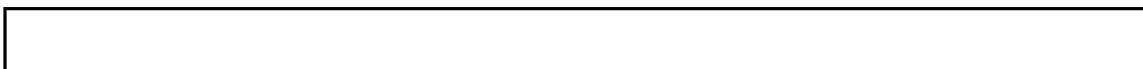
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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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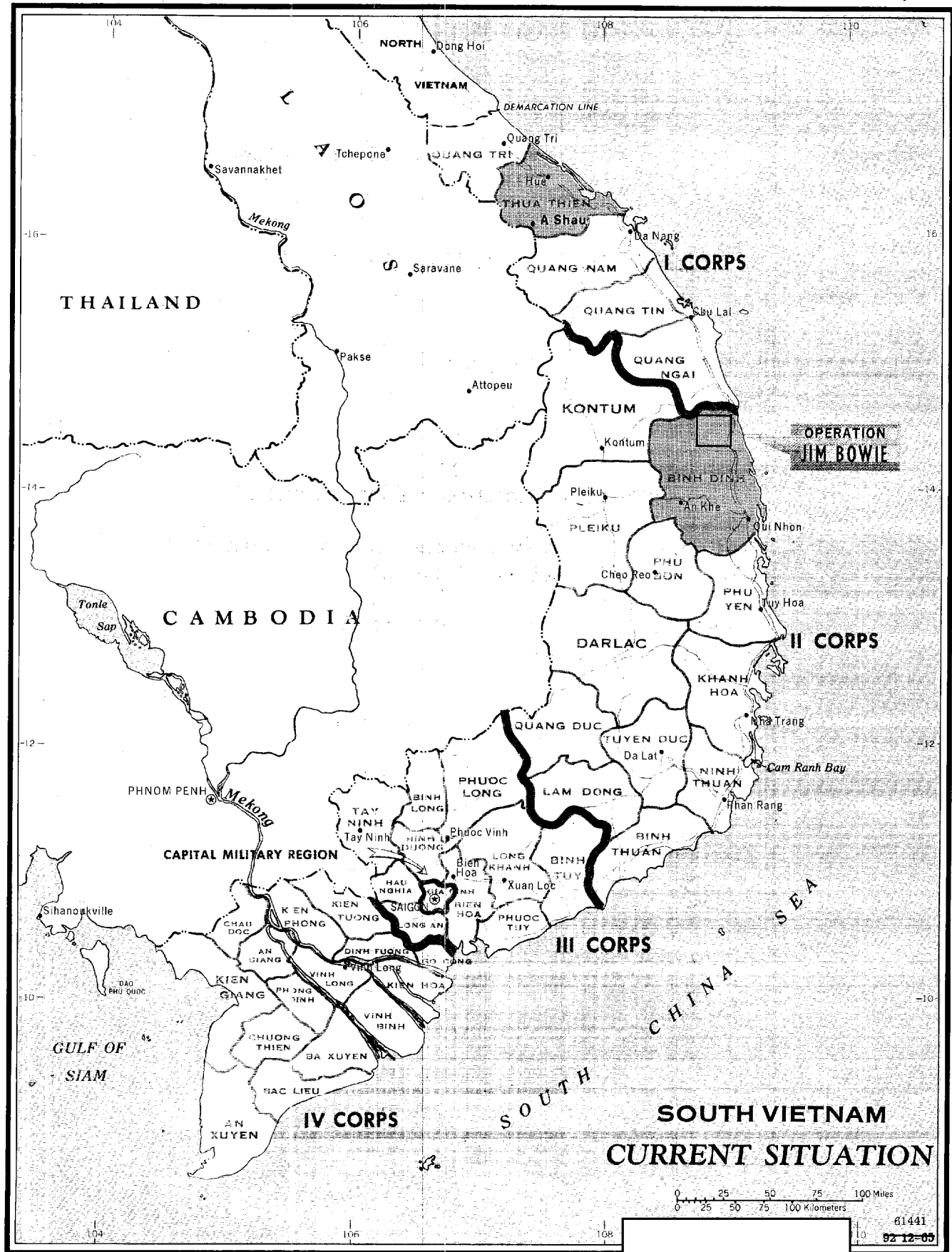
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3. Notes: [redacted] Belgium; [redacted]  
Bulgaria. (Page 5)

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\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Early yesterday, Communist forces estimated at between one and three battalions attacked the A Shau special forces camp defended by some 450 paramilitary troops in western Thua Thien Province. Heavy contact around the perimeter of the camp continued throughout the day. After a short lull during the evening hours, another full-scale assault was launched early this morning, and the camp was partially overrun today. The US Special Forces detachment has suffered casualties of four killed and 10 wounded. Four aircraft have also been lost in the engagement.

[Two enemy soldiers who surrendered to government authorities in Thua Thien Province on 5 March claimed to be members of a North Vietnamese regiment that infiltrated the province last month. They also said that the regiment had its command post situated only about six miles northeast of A Shau and had been planning to attack the camp.]

[Elsewhere, some six battalions of the US 1st Cavalry Division plan to initiate Operation JIM BOWIE in northern Binh Dinh Province. This search-and-destroy effort, scheduled to last ten days, was preceded by Operation MASHER/WHITE WING, which resulted in over 1,800 enemy dead in a six-week period ending last Monday.]

Political Developments in South Vietnam: General Thi was relieved today by the ruling military Directorate as commander of I Corps.

[no threat to security has occurred or will arise.]

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[Prior to the meeting of the Directorate, Saigon area commander General Khang had said he and other Directorate members--with only one possible exception--were planning to concur when Premier Ky charged General Thi with the obstruction of the Saigon government's authority in I Corps. Thi afterwards was to be offered an ambassadorial post in Thailand or a training assignment in the United States.]

General Thi, as well as two of the other three military corps commanders, has exercised a good deal of independence in his area of responsibility, although there is no conclusive evidence that he has been deliberately obstructing government programs. In addition to having an inhibiting effect upon the other corps commanders, Thi's removal will also signify the loss of power by one of Premier Ky's strongest potential rivals.

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NOTES

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Belgium: Efforts to resolve Belgium's month-old cabinet crisis now center around the slim possibility of a Catholic-Liberal coalition. The Catholics are generally more in harmony with the business-oriented Liberals than with their former Socialist coalition partners on economic issues, but have disagreed on attitudes toward linguistic rivalries. Omission of the Socialists from a new coalition would mean the departure of Socialist Foreign Minister Spaak, long the source of Belgian foreign policy initiatives.

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Bulgaria: Bulgarian party chief and Premier  
Todor Zhivkov will soon give up his premiership,

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*from his Premiership*  
[redacted]  
Zhivkov, who may step aside as early as 11 March  
when the National Assembly is scheduled to meet,  
*pk* stated several months ago that the dual duties as  
leader of both the government and the party were  
too demanding. He may also want to bring his  
regime more in line with the practice of separating  
the ranking government and party posts now fol-  
lowed in other East European countries. This re-  
shuffling is not expected to affect Zhivkov's author-  
ity as the top leader in the country. Deputy Premiers  
Zhivko Zhivkov and Stanko Todorov are the most  
likely candidates to assume the premiership. [redacted]

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THE PRESIDENT

The Vice President

Executive Offices of the White House

Special Counsel to the President

The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

The National Security Agency

The Director

The United States Information Agency

The Director

The National Indications Center

The Director

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